Amendments to the Claims:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1-20. (Canceled)

21. (Currently Amended) A carrier having a structure selected from the group consisting of monolithic honeycomb, pellet, bead, ring and foam, ~~characterized in~~ wherein alumina is disposed in the carrier and/or on the cell wall surface of the ~~carrier.~~carrier, wherein the alumina is contained in a coating layer, the coating layer has a composition that is different from that of the carrier, and the coating layer contains 90% or more of alumina.

22. (Currently Amended) A carrier according to Claim 21, ~~wherein,~~wherein in the carrier and/or on the cell wall surface of the carrier is further disposed a substance liable to react with an alkali metal and/or an alkaline earth metal both used as a catalyst ~~component, and/or an alkali metal and/or an alkaline earth metal.~~ component.

23. (Previously Presented) A carrier according to Claim 22, wherein the substance liable to react with an alkali metal and/or an alkaline earth metal is silica.

24. (Previously Presented) A carrier according to Claim 23, wherein the silica is disposed directly on the carrier and alumina is disposed thereon.

25. (Previously Presented) A carrier according to Claim 21, wherein the carrier has a honeycomb structure.

26. (Previously Presented) A carrier according to Claim 21, wherein the carrier contains cordierite as a major component.

27. (Currently Amended) A carrier according to Claim 21, wherein alumina contains at least ~~one kind~~one member selected from the group consisting of γ-alumina, δ-alumina, η-alumina, θ-alumina, α-alumina and amorphous alumina.

28. (Previously Presented) A carrier according to Claim 27, wherein alumina contains α-alumina as a major component.

29. (Currently Amended) A catalyst body comprising a carrier having a structure selected from the group consisting of monolithic honeycomb, pellet, bead, ring and foam, wherein alumina is disposed in the carrier and/or on the cell wall surface of the carrier and a catalytic material ~~carrier~~ carried on the ~~carrier.~~ carrier, wherein the alumina is contained in a coating layer, the coating layer has a composition that is different from that of the carrier, and the coating layer contains 90% or more of alumina.

30. (Previously Presented) A catalyst body according to Claim 29, wherein the catalytic material contains an alkali metal and/or an alkaline earth metal.

31. (Withdrawn) A method for producing a carrier having alumina coated thereon, characterized in that alumina is coated on a carrier to obtain a primary carrier having alumina coated thereon and then thus obtained is fired carrier at least once.

32. (Withdrawn) A method for producing a carrier having alumina coated thereon according to Claim 31, wherein the primary carrier having alumina coated thereon is dried and then fired at least once.

33. (Withdrawn) A method for producing a carrier having alumina coated thereon according to Claim 31, wherein the primary carrier having alumina coated thereon is fired at least once at a temperature of 200°C or higher.

34. (Withdrawn) A method for producing a carrier having alumina coated thereon according to Claim 33, wherein the primary carrier having alumina coated thereon is fired at least once at a temperature of 1,300°C or lower.

35. (Withdrawn) A method for producing a carrier having alumina coated thereon according to Claim 31, wherein as alumina to be coated, there is used a member selected from

the group consisting of an alumina powder, an alumina sol, and a combination of an alumina powder and an alumina sol.

36. (Withdrawn) A method for producing a carrier having alumina coated thereon according to Claim 35, wherein as alumina to be coated, an alumina sol is used.

37. (Withdrawn) A method for producing a carrier having alumina coated thereon according to Claim 31, wherein the method comprises a step of coating a substance liable to react with an alkali metal and/or an alkaline earth metal both used as a catalyst component, and/or an alkali metal and/or an alkaline earth metal.

38. (Withdrawn) A method for producing a carrier having alumina coated thereon according to Claim 37, wherein as the substance liable to react with an alkali metal and/or an alkaline earth metal both used as a catalyst component, and/or the alkali metal and/or the alkaline earth metal, there is used a sol of a substance liable to react with an alkali metal and/or an alkaline earth metal both used as a catalyst component, and/or a sol of an alkali metal and/or an alkaline earth metal.

39. (Withdrawn) A method for producing a carrier having alumina coated thereon according to Claim 37, wherein the sol of a substance liable to react with an alkali metal and/or an alkaline earth metal both used as a catalyst component, and/or the sol of an alkali metal and/or an alkaline earth metal is a silica sol.

40. (Withdrawn) A method for producing a carrier having alumina coated thereon according to Claim 31, wherein the firing is conducted twice.